AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1. (Currently amended) An automated method of composing a virtual book
2   from a set of electronically stored documentation comprising multiple books, the
3   method comprising:
4   identifying a plurality of topics based on the chapter and section headings
5   in the documentation, wherein each said topic is associated with a portion of the
6   documentation;
7   determining a structure of the documentation, wherein said structure
8   indicates a hierarchy of said topics within the documentation;
9   classifying each of said topics within one or more categories;
10   receiving a subject for a virtual book;
11   composing said virtual book to include a subset of said topics that are
12   relevant to said subject, and each said relevant topic includes a pointer to said
13   associated portion of the documentation, wherein the complete virtual book can be
14   stored for future access.

1   2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising searching said
2   topics for a set of topics relevant to said subject.

1   3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said relevant topics are
2   grouped in said virtual book by said categories.

1   4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said relevant topics within a

2 first category are listed in the order of their relevance to said subject.

1   5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said relevant topics within a

2 first category are listed in the order they occur within the documentation.

1   6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying index

2 entries in the documentation.

1   7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said index entries are

2 included in said virtual book.

1   8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising sorting said

2 relevant topics according to their relevance to said topic.

1   9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said categories include one

2 or more of the set of: concept, task, example, reference and troubleshooting.

1   10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said composing comprises:

2   identifying a characteristic of a viewer of said virtual book; and

3   customizing said virtual book for the viewer on the basis of said

4 characteristic.

1   11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic is one

2 of the set of: employment role and level of experience.

1   12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic

2   comprises a level of experience of the user and said customizing comprises

3   omitting one or more of said categories from said virtual book.

1   13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic

2   comprises an employment role of the user and said customizing comprises

3   implementing said role as another category of said virtual book.

1   14. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of generating a

2   virtual electronic book from a set of electronic documentation comprising

3   multiple books stored in multiple files, comprising:

4   storing physical attributes of the multiple files in a database;

5   identifying topics based on the chapter and section headings within the

6   documentation, wherein each said topic comprises a heading within one of the

7   multiple files;

8   associating unique identifiers with each of said topics;

9   storing said topics in said database;

10   for each of said stored topics:

11   storing in said database a reference to a first book containing said topic;

12   storing in said database a reference to a first file containing said topic;

13   storing in said database a reference to a parent topic of said topic, if any, in

14   the first book; and

15   storing in said database a reference to a child topic of said topic, if any, in

16   the first book;

17   categorizing each of said stored topics into one or more pre-determined

18   categories, wherein each of said categories represents a type of topic;

19   receiving a subject for a virtual book;

20   searching said stored topics for topics relevant to the subject;

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21   presenting said virtual book to a viewer, wherein said virtual book

22   comprises said relevant topics grouped according to said categories; and

23   storing said virtual book for future access, wherein the complete virtual

24   book can be stored.

1   15. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium storing

2   instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform an

3   automated method of composing a virtual book from a set of electronically stored

4   documentation comprising multiple books, the method comprising:

5   identifying a plurality of topics based on the chapter and section headings

6   in the documentation, wherein each said topic is associated with a portion of the

7   documentation;

8   determining a structure of the documentation, wherein said structure

9   indicates a hierarchy of said topics within the documentation;

10   classifying each of said topics within one or more categories;

11   receiving a subject for a virtual book;

12   composing said virtual book to include a subset of said topics that are

13   relevant to said subject, and each said relevant topic includes a pointer to said

14   associated portion of the documentation, wherein the complete virtual book can be

15   stored for future access.

1   16. (Canceled).

1   17. (Currently amended) An apparatus for producing a virtual book,

2   comprising:

3   a set of electronic documentation files;

4   a topic module configured to identify a set of topics based on the chapter

5   and section headings within said documentation, wherein each said topic

6   comprises a heading appearing in said documentation;

7   a structural analysis module configured to determine a hierarchy of said

8   topics within said documentation;

9   a categorizer configured to classify a first of said topics into one or more

10   predetermined categories;

11   a database configured to store said topics, said hierarchy and said

12   classifications;

13   a processor configured to produce a virtual book comprising a subset of

14   said set of topics, wherein said subset of said topics is relevant to a subject of said

15   virtual book; and

16   a storage device for storing said virtual book, wherein the complete virtual

17   book can be stored.

1   18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a network

2   server configured to present said virtual book to a user.

1   19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising an index

2   module configured to assemble index entries referring to said relevant topics

3   within said documentation.

1   20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said processor is further

2   configured to customize said virtual book on the basis of one of a role of a viewer

3   of said virtual book and a level of experience of the viewer.

1   21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said categories include

2   one or more of the set of: concept, task, example, reference, troubleshooting, role

3   of a viewer of said virtual book and level of experience of the viewer.